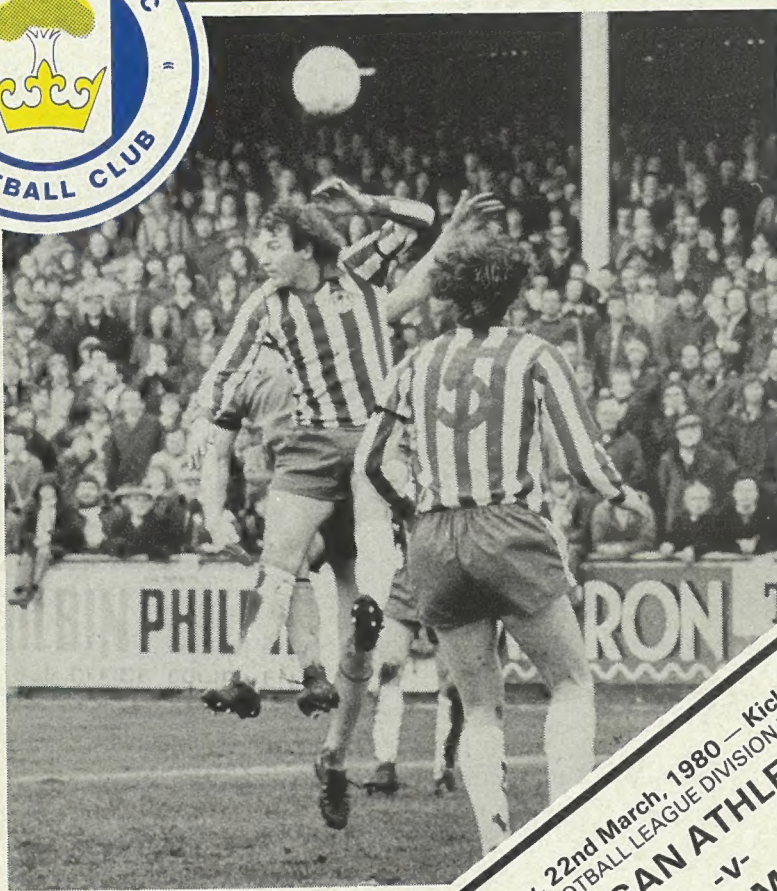


WIGAN ATHLETIC



Saturday, 22nd March, 1980 — Kick-off 3 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
-v-
**TRANMERE
ROVERS**

Official Programme

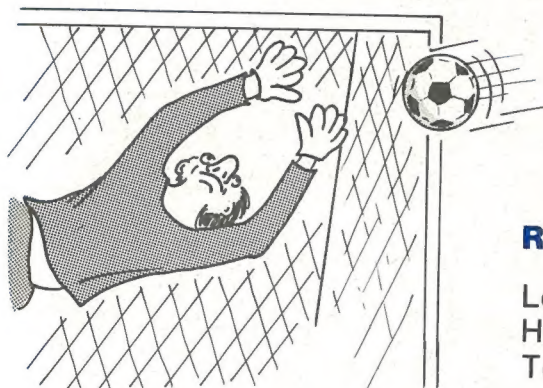
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Club Directory

WIGAN ATHLETIC
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REGISTERED OFFICE:
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CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A. Muir.

DIRECTORS:
Messrs. J.H. Farrimond,
A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,
B. Connolly, F. Pye,
R. Charlton C.B.E.

TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
Dr. G. Menon, Dr. S.K. Ahuja,
and Dr. J. Coffey.

Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Frank Corrigan and Colin Methven in action against Newport County. (Photo by courtesy of the Evening Post and Chronicle).

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good Afternoon All
A WARM welcome to Johnny King and his Tranmere Rovers side. At the present time they are finding the going a bit rough, but Johnny has too many good players in his side to be down for long. So far in three games against the Rovers, we have done fairly well. I am

hoping to continue in the same vein.

Recent Run

Since our rather bad defeat at Lincoln we have had a decent run winning two and drawing two, and losing by the odd goal to Newport County. Ironically, the match we lost was possibly our best display of the five games. However, our four points from three away games was a fairly satisfactory return, although we had enough of the play at Halifax to have made it five points out of six. I feel we still have a chance of promotion and a sustained run from now would certainly put pressure on the top clubs.

David Shearer

I think our supporters will be pleased with our loan player from Middlesbrough. He had a fine debut at Halifax. One thing the Wigan fans like is a real hundred-per-center, and coupled with his football skills David is certainly a lad who puts himself about. I hope he enjoys his stay at Springfield Park. Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill.

Ian McNeill

WELCOME TO



TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB 1979/80 — (Left to Right) **Back Row:** D. Johnson (Sec.), S. Mungall, I. Hodge, G. West, D. Johnson, R. Hughes, E. Flood, J. Kerr. **Middle Row:** J. Kelly, T. Jordan, E. Edwards, S. Craven, L. Parry, S. Whittingham, T. Wright, E. Robertson (Trainer/Asst. Manager). **Front Row:** T. O'Neil, S. Eaton, D. Postlethwaite, J. King (Manager), R. Mathias, C. Evans, J. Bramhall.

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TRANMERE ROVERS

TODAY we welcome the Directors, Staff, Players and supporters of the Tranmere Rovers Football Club to Springfield Park, for our return league fixture. "The Rovers" have a fine reputation, not only for their hospitality but also for the competitive way in which they play their football. In their Chairman, Mr. Bill Bothwell, they possess one of Soccer's leading personalities, and, in their manager, Mr. John King, one of the most conscientious and hard-working professionals in the business. Both gentlemen and their colleagues can count themselves as most welcome guests of this club at any time.

Last year, we were not fortunate enough to meet Tranmere Rovers in league games, since the Birkenhead club was then in the Third Division of the Football League, but we did have the privilege of playing the men from Prenton Park in our first competitive game in League Soccer — the First Round of the Football League Cup. After two very tight games we progressed to the next round, and we have carried on the good work this year, by recently winning our away league fixture at Tranmere.

Both clubs are comfortably placed for the final run-in to the end of the season, and, while Wigan Athletic still retain an outside interest in the promotion battle, Tranmere seem destined for a second term in the Fourth Division. However, such is the competitive nature of the Merseyside Club's football that nothing can be assumed about the outcome of today's game. Although "The Rovers"

have spent all but one year of their time in League Football at Third and Fourth Division levels, and have experienced the joys and heartbreaks of promotion and relegation between those divisions, they have always been renowned fighters. Appearances in the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup in 1967-1968 and the Fourth Round of the Football League Cup in 1961, a Welsh Cup-winning year in 1935, and promotion successes in 1966-1967 and 1975-1976 emphasise the club's quality. The legendary exploits of Bunny Bell with thirty-five league goals in 1933-1934 and Harold Bell's five hundred and ninety-five league appearances between 1946 and 1964 are also worth mentioning. While managerial personalities such as Walter Galbraith and Dave Russell have left their mark on the club.

The Prenton Park Ground housed 24,424 spectators for a Fourth Round F.A. Cup game against Stoke City in 1972, while only recently "The Rovers" gained a meritorious draw against neighbours Liverpool at Prenton in this year's Football League Cup Competition. In the club's record 13-4 victory over Oldham Athletic on December 26th, 1935, Bunny Bell scored nine goals and actually had the nerve to miss a penalty ! !

Welcome then to our colleagues and friends from Tranmere. We trust you will enjoy your visit to Wigan, witness an enjoyable game and make the safe journey home either across or under the Mersey tonight.

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Commercial Chatter

LAST WEDNESDAY I attended a meeting of Commercial Managers at Chester Football Club, and, as ever, I found this opportunity to meet my colleagues at other clubs both stimulating and rewarding, as we discussed shirt advertising, programme production, fund-raising and other odds and ends.

In the very near future each Commercial Manager will contact a handful of organisations to establish whether or not that organisation is interested in shirt-advertising as a regional North-West package. Should the response prove to be positive, the Negotiating Committee, armed with a dossier of facts and figures provided by the clubs, will attempt to secure an agreement which it is hoped will guarantee each participating club a minimum of £10,000 per annum. Clubs involved in the negotiations are Blackburn Rovers, Bradford City, Chester, Crewe Alexandra, Halifax Town, Huddersfield Town, Port Vale, Rochdale, Tranmere Rovers and, of course, Wigan Athletic.

Programme production was another interesting feature of the meeting, with discussions covering regionalised features, colour processing and the immediate sales

strategy of the clubs receiving attention. Although we have, this year, enjoyed a very good relationship with our printers — Publicity Print Services of Ashton-in-Makerfield — and earned the praise of both supporters and programme collectors, we must keep abreast of the situation, and not allow our satisfaction with the current state of affairs to blind us to developments which are taking place elsewhere in the footballing fraternity. By the way, we have heard rumblings on the grape-vine that our improved programme is in the running for certain awards but until such time as we receive details of any success, we are just keeping our fingers crossed that a lot of hard work will soon be acknowledged.

The intensification of the activity in the lottery field also came up for discussion at Chester, and, as comparative newcomers it was eye-opening to note recent developments and to learn from the experiences of others. It was also most reassuring to discover that so much of our thinking was in line with that of our more experienced colleagues. It would appear that changes to legislation are to be introduced in the near future,

and, with commercial interests likely to move into the field in a big way in the near future, we will need to be on our toes in the months which lie immediately ahead.

We, ourselves, have recently carried out a review of our fund-raising activities, and changes to be made at the end of the season will be notified in due course. Our supporters can rest assured, however, that our fund-raising provides a very positive contribution to the club and must be stepped up still further if our ambitions for an even more effective and even stronger Wigan Athletic are to be realised.

Finally, a word on ball sponsorship. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have donated under this scheme during the past season, and, in particular, today's donors Smith and Gaskell, Commercial Stationers and Office Equipment Dealers of 6 Bridgeman Terrace, Wigan (Telephone Wigan 43799).

Enjoy today's game.

Jack Sudworth
Commercial Manager

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

WE TASTED defeat last week for the first time in five months, when we went down 0-2 at Tranmere. Five months is a long time between defeats and I think a few of our lads had forgotten the feeling. Fortunately we got back to our winning ways later in the week when we defeated Manchester City 2-1. This was a well deserved victory, which did not look as if it was going to materialise as the game wore on without us being able to score. Despite intense pressure and almost camping in their penalty area for nearly all the game, (they had taken a first minute lead after an uncharacteristic slip by George McAllister) our patience and controlled play was rewarded in the end when, after hitting the

woodwork five times after numerous near misses, and their goalkeeper Alex Williams having performed miracles, we snatched two late goals through Alan Crompton and Mike Quinn.

We play them in a return fixture at Manchester City this weekend and will obviously be hoping for a similar result.

With several games in hand on other teams in our league we are handily placed to make our final push for the Lancashire League Division One Championship. However, the club's commitments are such that we cannot count our chickens before the late stages of the season, but, as ever, we remain optimistic.

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Player Profile



ALAN CROMPTON (Forward)

ALAN CROMPTON was born in Bolton, and received his early education at schools in the area. While at Whitecroft Road Secondary School, he played for his school in the morning and a local Bolton Boys' Federation team Park United in the afternoon.

On leaving school, he went to work at Edbro Engineering on an apprenticeship, but admits to having hated the job. Luckily for Alan, Sunderland approached him following favourable reports from their scout in the area and, at the age of seventeen, he signed professional forms in the 1974-1975 season. After an enjoyable spell in the North-East, young Crompton joined Blackburn Rovers, where he eventually made his Football League debut, but was unable to command a regular first-team spot. At Central League level, however, Alan Crompton was a regular goal scorer and Ian McNeill was delighted to sign the rather disappointed player just prior to Wigan Athletic's first season in the Football League.

Unfortunately for Alan, his first team appearances have been rather limited, as much by the necessity to strengthen the midfield section of the team as his own shortcomings. The presence of experienced professionals such as Derek Brownbill, Peter Houghton and Micky Moore, plus the emergence of Tony Quinn at a time when Alan was injured and unable to stake his claim, has made it very difficult for Alan to claim the striking position for which Ian McNeill considers him best suited. As a valuable member of Ian's first team squad, Alan Crompton has turned in some very useful second team performances, impressing with his work-rate and finishing, and helping to bring along young players. Whether or not Alan will make the big break-through into League Football with Wigan Athletic remains to be seen, but, in the opinion of many people, he possesses an ability which is deserving of a better competitive level than that offered by the Lancashire League.

A keen golfer and snooker player, Alan also enjoys darts and dominoes. He actually won his first-ever trophy at snooker at the early age of twelve!! It was a competition run by the local club of which his dad was a member. That same year he played the English Amateur Champion of that time, Stan Haslam, who showed the young Boltonian no mercy (Alan's description of the thrashing he received is unprintable). Alan also enjoys a flutter on the horses, but confesses that the bookies rub their hands together in joyful anticipation when he enters their premises!!

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SO NEAR AN

Photographs by courtesy of the Wigan Observer.



ABOVE:
A battle for possession in
the Newport penalty area.

TOP RIGHT:
The Newport goalkeeper
punches clear a dangerous
cross.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Frank Corrigan tries a
spectacular shot at goal.

Springfield Spotlight

D YET SO FAR



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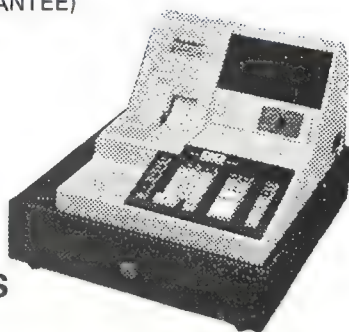
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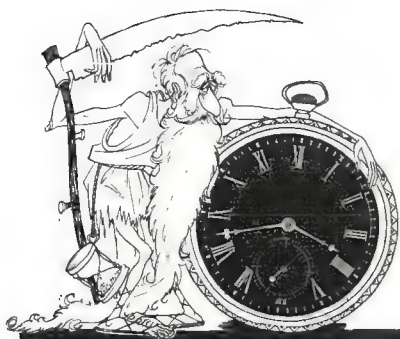
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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

THIS TIME last year, Wigan Athletic's first season in the Football League, the local favourites were smack bang in the promotion race after that incredible run from next to bottom of the table in September to fifth before they played lowly Rochdale at Spotland on March 19th.

Up to then Wigan had dropped just two points out of the last fourteen and they needed to win at Rochdale to lift themselves into that magical top-four spot for the first time. With the people at Wigan sensing something was "on" they turned out in force and more than 2,000 Wigan supporters swelled Rochdale's gate to 3,621 — their biggest that season.

Right from the kick off it was obvious that Latics were determined to jump into the top four at the expense of a Rochdale side then at the bottom of the league but who themselves made a miraculous recovery before the season ended. A couple of early Wigan chances went begging before Ian Purdie sent the

Wiganers wild with a twenty yards shot into the top corner of the net.

Rochdale came back but were unable to make any impression on a Wigan defence superbly marshalled by Noel Ward — watched by Chelsea manager Danny Blanchflower — and when Micky Moore scored Latics' second just after half time, following a mistake by Rochdale goalkeeper Chris Shyne, the victory was sealed.

Thus Wigan moved into a top four position in the League for the first time, but it was a position they held for just five days, because, in their next game, they were beaten 3-1 at Grimsby.

The Wigan team was: Brown, Smart, Hinnigan, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Brownbill, Moore, Purdie, Sub. Crompton.

Rochdale were represented by: Shyne, Creamer, Taylor, Hart, Bannon, Scaife, Hoy, Collins, Jones, O'Loughlin, Esser, Sub. Hilditch. The referee was Mr. Kevin McNally from Clwyd.

LATICS AWAY

At Scunthorpe United, Saturday, 29th March, 1980, kick-off 3.00 p.m. Use M62 Motorway Eastbound until its junction with the M18. Join the M18 (signposted to Scunthorpe) and eventually join M180. Take the first road signposted to Scunthorpe off the M180, and proceed to roundabout, near to which Berkley Hotel is sited. Go straight up the hill towards Town Centre. The Old Show Ground is situated in Doncaster Road to your left.

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1-2	6,004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart	
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0-0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Moore	
Aug 18	Darlington	2-2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill	
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1-2	6,927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill	
Aug 25	Stockport County	2-1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill	
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1-2	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2-1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2-5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2-1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Sep 22	Hereford United	1-2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Jirquhart	
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4-1	8,009	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton	
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0-3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton	
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0-4	7,821	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton	
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1-3	4,169	Brown	Macivor	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2-1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1-1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Oct 27	Newport County	2-3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4-1	5,001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Nov 6	Rochdale	2-0	2,936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4-1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1	1-1	11,277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC1R	2-0	14,589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0-0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Dec 8	Walsall	1-1	5,261	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Dec 21	CREWE	2-0	4,315	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Dec 26	Peterborough	2-1	3,312	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Dec 29	STOCKPORT	3-1	6,847	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Jan 5	Northwich V FAC2	2-2	5,249	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Jan 7	NORTHWICH V FAC2R	1-0	11,298	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Jan 12	Portsmouth	1-1	15,625	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Jan 14	Chelsea FAC3	0-1	22,302	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Jan 26	Everton FAC4	0-3	51,863	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Feb 2	York City	2-1	2,400	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Feb 6	Bournemouth	2-1	5,904	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED	1-1	6,481	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Feb 16	Bradford City	1-2	6,127	Brown	Fretwell	Macivor	Gore	Methven	Davids	Quinn	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Feb 29	Lincoln City	0-4	3,644	Brown	Macivor	Whistle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Mar 5	ALDERSHOT	2-1	5,018	Brown	Macivor	Whistle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY	0-1	6,128	Brown	Fretwell	Whistle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Mar 10	Tranmere Rovers	3-1	3,069	Brown	Fretwell	Whistle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Mar 14	Torquay United	2-2	2,824	Brown	Fretwell	Whistle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Mar 19	Halifax Town	0-0	1,406	Brown	Fretwell	Whistle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Mar 22	TRANMERE															
Mar 26	PORT VALE															
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United															
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra															
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH															
Apr 7	Port Vale															
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 15	Hartlepool United															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
Apr 30	DONCASTER RVRS															
May 3	Aldershot															

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



AS ALWAYS, the advent of the mid-March Football League transfer deadline heralds frantic activity in the market. However, by the time the shutters came down at Football League Headquarters at 5.00 p.m. last Thursday, deals involving big cash were few and far between. As far as the Fourth Division clubs were concerned a lot of the chopping and changing revolved around loan deals or players given free transfers by their present clubs.

Crystal Palace agreed to help our Port Vale by extending striker Tony Sealey's loan period until the end of the season.

Lincoln City released David Sunley and he immediately signed for Stockport County on a free and made his debut last week.

Hereford United, fighting to avoid applying for re-election, took a number of players on loan including Arsenal mid-fielder Jimmy Harvey.

Darlington splashed out £5,000 on Hull City's David Hawker while Preston North End defender Steve Uzelac signed for Stockport County.

Former Southampton player Paul Gilchrist has moved from Third Division Swindon Town to join Hereford United, but the biggest capture would appear to be that by A.F.C. Bournemouth boss, Alec Stock. The old maestro nipped in to take on loan the former Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers striker Don Givens, and Don obliged his new boss by scoring on his debut last weekend.

Hartlepool United also made a move in the market picking up Blackburn Rovers reserve Martin Fowler on loan.

Huddersfield Town goalkeeper Dick Taylor has journeyed to Bootham Crescent on a loan period but York don't expect to be able to retain his services, as Huddersfield will almost certainly want

him back. Meanwhile Huddersfield, the Division's leading scorers with seventy-nine goals are having a torrid time with spot kicks. They have missed four out of their last kicks taken since expert penalty-taker Ian Holmes was left out of the side.

It was nice to see that local connections were honoured in the Professional Footballers Association annual awards. Former Latics star, Joe Hinnigan, was named the best left back in the division — he is now at Sunderland — and Wigan based Ian Robins filled one of the forward roles.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
TABLE AS AT 20th MARCH, 1980.

	Home Goals					Away Goals				
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A Pts
Walsall	37	10	8	0	33 14	10	7	2	28	18 55
Huddersfield Town	36	12	3	2	47 13	8	6	5	32	27 49
Portsmouth	37	14	3	2	56 20	5	7	6	20	21 48
Bradford City	36	11	5	2	35 11	8	4	6	30	34 47
Newport County	35	12	5	2	39 21	7	1	8	25	20 44
Peterborough United	37	11	2	5	32 18	6	7	6	15	16 43
Lincoln City	37	11	7	1	36 11	3	5	10	16	28 40
Wigan Athletic	34	9	3	5	31 23	6	5	6	24	29 38
Northampton Town	37	13	3	2	30 12	1	7	11	15	42 38
Aldershot	36	9	5	4	30 17	5	4	9	20	24 37
Torquay United	34	11	4	2	38 17	2	7	8	17	32 37
Hartlepool United	35	9	5	4	32 23	4	3	10	19	25 34
Halifax Town	35	10	6	1	20 9	2	4	12	15	35 34
Bournemouth	36	6	7	5	23 19	3	8	7	18	23 33
Tranmere Rovers	36	8	2	8	28 22	4	7	7	17	25 33
Doncaster Rovers	35	8	4	6	31 25	3	6	8	19	26 32
Stockport County	36	7	7	4	23 23	4	3	11	13	35 32
York City	37	7	5	7	30 30	3	4	11	24	40 29
Darlington	37	6	9	3	28 20	1	6	12	14	40 29
Hereford United	36	7	5	6	18 14	2	5	11	14	29 28
Port Vale	36	6	5	7	26 18	3	5	10	18	38 28
Scunthorpe United	34	8	8	2	30 19	1	2	13	10	42 28
Crewe Alexandra	36	7	5	6	19 22	0	4	14	7	37 23
Rochdale	35	4	6	6	16 22	1	5	13	13	45 21

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Inside Information

by I. Spy

ALWAYS ready to lend a hand on the charity scene, the Wigan Athletic club will be welcoming local cub scouts to the ground on Tuesday, 8th April, in connection with the "Kiwi Nationwide Shoe-Shine Championship 1980". The local youngsters have been recruited to clean the players' boots following the heavy Easter programme of games. Why not visit the youngsters stand at their Headquarters in Poke Street, off Fleet Street, Pemberton, during the week commencing April 7th, 1980 and put a real kick into their efforts !!

Although our quiz team recently bowed the knee to the mighty Leeds United, we are pleased to announce that Michael Moss will be taking part in the Regional Final of the Rothmans Supporter of the Year Competition, a competition associated with the Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs

A married man, with two children, Mike, a landscape gardener, has followed the club since 1953, and has served the Supporters' Club well in recent quiz competitions. He carries with him our best wishes for his latest venture at the Liverpool Supporters' Club on Wednesday, 2nd April.

Just a reminder about our Annual Player of the Year Contest. Votes can be cast for the player of your choice at the game to be played against Peterborough United on Easter Saturday, 5th April. Only players who are still with the club are eligible for consideration. The winner will receive "The Wigan Observer Trophy" and a memento award, while cheques will be presented by the Development Association to each of the three players at the top of the poll. Our thanks as ever to "The Wigan Observer" and "The Wigan Athletic Development Association".

A VERY good afternoon to all our club members and supporters, and also supporters of our near-neighbours Tranmere Rovers.

As you may have heard, on Sunday, 9th March, we lost our third round football quiz match to Leeds United by 68-95. An opinion, also shared by the Federation officials, was that considering this was our first season in the contest we had done more than enough to justify our entry into next season's competition. On behalf of the club, I wish to say a very big "Thank you" to Michael Moss and his quiz team for a great effort on behalf of Wigan Athletic Supporters' Club. We would also express our appreciation and thanks to all who were at the club during the quiz, both for their attendance and their response to the efforts of both Leeds United and our own team.

Again connected with the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs, I would like to inform our members who regularly support the club at away games, that information is being requested regarding the validity of our membership cards in respect of other team's supporters' clubs. This information will be posted on the noticeboard as soon as possible.

As mentioned in our last programme, members' subscriptions for the year 1st May, 1980 - 30th April, 1981 will be accepted as and from our home match with Peterborough United on Easter Saturday, 5th April, 1980.

Supporters Club News



Last Monday evening our Bowls' Section held their pre-season meeting, and it was gratifying to see the interest and professional approach that Frank Mason and his colleagues have initiated. Any other members interested in bowling have until Easter to join in.

Once again, with regret, we have to accept the resignation of a committee member owing to ill-health. We wish Dick Fieldhouse a speedy recovery, and our thanks for all his efforts in the past.

Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

ON BEHALF of the Wigan Athletic Football Club I am pleased to welcome the Chairman, Directors, Staff and Supporters of Tranmere Rovers to Springfield Park. The reception accorded to our club and its officials by our neighbours from "across the water" has always been top-class and we look forward to the opportunity of returning in full measure the generous hospitality of Bill Bothwell and his co-directors and staff. A warm welcome, too, to our recently co-opted directors Mr. Bobby Charlton C.B.E. and Mr. Fred Pye. Both are well-known for their contributions to Association Football and we wish them a long and happy stay with our club.



After the disappointments of the defeats by Lincoln City and Newport County, our players responded magnificently to the pressure imposed upon them by three testing away games at Tranmere, Torquay and Halifax. To gain four points from the six at stake, from games contested in playing conditions which varied from strength-sapping mud to bone-hard snow-covered turf, with the elements adding lashing-rain, driving snow and howling winds for good measure is most commendable.

We have still to make up our back-log of outstanding games, but recent activity has pushed us into eighth position in the league table. Certainly competition is hotting up for the top-four positions and promotion to the Third Division of the Football League. At the end of the day, all may be decided by the players who best keep their nerve as the pressure builds up over the last six weeks of the season.

A final word of thanks to our supporters for their efforts in attending the recent away games. I am sure our players would be the first to agree that it gives them great heart to know that, in any crowd, we can always be guaranteed a minimum of five hundred spectators cheering on the blue and whites. Keep up the good work !!

Enjoy today's game.

Sincerely,
A. O. Horrocks

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. O. Horrocks', written over a horizontal line.

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Teams

Wigan Athletic (Royal Blue & White Stripes)

John Brown 1
Dave Fretwell 2
Maurice Whittle 3
Tommy Gore 4
Colin Methven 5
Neil Davids 6
Frank Corrigan 7
Jeff Wright 8
Peter Houghton 9
David Shearer 10
George Urquhart 11
Micky Moore 12

Tranmere Rovers (White with Blue sash)

Dickie Johnson
Les Parry
Eddie Flood
John Bramhall
Elfyn Edwards
Clive Evans
Tommy O'Neil
Ray Mathias
John Kelly
John Kerr
Steve Peplow
Jim Lumby

Officials

Referee:
Mr. M. Lowe
(Sheffield)

Commenced refereeing in Sheffield local leagues in 1958, then through the Central League to the Football League full list in 1972. Was linesman at the 1971 F.A. Amateur Cup Final also a European Cup match in Sweden in 1972.

Linesmen:
Red Flag
Mr. B. Davies
(Clwyd)

Yellow Flag
Mr. N. L. Wilson
(Morecambe)

Here next...

Wednesday, 26th March, 1980. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- PORT VALE
Football League Division Four